

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 09333 301227Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
SY-05 PRS-01 /044 W
-----007485 301252Z /43

R 301134Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4424
INFO AMCONSUL
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 9333

E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ASEC, OTRA
SUBJECT: BILLY GRAHAM TO CRUSADE IN INDIA

1. REV. WALTER GRIST OF THE BILLY GRAHAM EVANGELISTIC
ASSN. HAS CALLED UPON THE EMBASSY AND CONGENS CALCUTTA AND
MADRAS TO INFORM US OF BILLY GRAHAM'S PLANS TO CONDUCT
A 10-DAY CRUSADE IN INDIA, COMMENCING 2 DECEMBER 1977.

2. PLAN STILL SEEMS IN FLUX. ORIGINALLY DR. GRAHAM HAD
APPARENTLY PLANNED TO VISIT DELHI, TWO CITIES IN THE SOUTH
AND SPEND THE MAJORITY OF HIS TIME IN CALCUTTA. DR.
GRIST TOLD EMBOFF JUNE 27 THERE WERE CONCERNS ABOUT THE
SECURITY SITUATION IN THE CALCUTTA AREA FOLLOWING THE
ASSUMPTION OF POWER BY A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT AND OVER
THAT GOVERNMENT'S PLANS TO RELEASE NAXALITES AND OTHER
PROBLEM-CREATING PRISONERS FROM DETENTION. GRIST SAID
THAT A GOI SECURITY OFFICIAL IN DELHI HAD SUGGESTED THAT
CALCUTTA BE CANCELLED.

3. GRIST ASKED EMBOFF IF USG HAD ANY INFORMATION REGARDING
SECURITY SITUATION IN CALCUTTA AND H E WAS TOLD THAT WE HAD
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NONE AT THIS TIME WHICH WOULD INDICATE ANY DANGER TO DR.
GRAHAM BUT THAT WE ALSO HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING HOW SITUATION
MIGHT DEVELOP IN WEST BENGAL BETWEEN NOW AND DECEMBER.
GRIST LEFT ASKING EMBASSY TO INFORM HIM IF WE HEARD ANYTHING
WHICH MIGHT TEND TO AFFECT THE CALCUTTA RALLY.

4. ON JUNE 28 GRIST VISITED CONGEN MADRAS AND GAVE THEM

PROGRAM WHICH LIMITS CALCUTTA TO ONE DAY ONLY. ACORDING
TO CONGEN MADRAS, LATEST PROGRAM IS FOR DR. GRAHAM AND
PARTY OF ABOUT TWENTY OTHERS, INCLUDING GOSPEL MUSICIANS AND
FILM CREW, TO ARRIVE IN INDIA DECEMBER 2 WITH PROGRAMS
SCHEDULED FOR CALCUTTA, NEW DELHI, KOTTAYAM, KERALA AND
MADRAS. GRIST HAD TOLD EMBOFF ALSO THAT ARRANGEMENTS HAVE
BEEN MADE FOR DR. GRAHAM TO CALL UPON "THE HIGHEST LEVELS"
OF THE GOI WHILE IN DELHI.

5. EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN ASKED FOR ANY ASSISTANCE BUT
WILL ROUNTINELY REQUEST GOI TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR DR.
GRAHAM AS MIGHT BE NEEDED.
GOHEEN

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